

## CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method for providing a software application service over the Internet comprising:
  - 2 (a) accessing a service site on the Internet;
  - 3 (b) authenticating a user for access to said software application service through a log-
  - 4 in process, through said service site;
  - 5 (c) authorizing said user for access to a selected software application provided by
  - 6 said service;
  - 7 (d) sending a service request form to a said user's terminal;
  - 8 (e) receiving a user's completed said service request form over the Internet, said
  - 9 form including a said user's input data required to perform said selected software service;
  - 10 (f) performing said software service, including sending service result data over said
  - 11 Internet to said user's terminal;
  - 12 (g) recording a record of said performing; and
  - 13 (h) billing said user for said performing.
- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said authenticating includes
  - 2 (a) storing user valid authentication data in a database; and
  - 3 (b) comparing a user entered log-in authentication data with said valid authentication
  - 4 data for a match.
- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein said authorization includes
  - 2 (a) storing user valid authorization data in a database; and
  - 3 (b) comparing a user entered log-in authorization data with said valid authorization
  - 4 data for a match.
- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 2 further comprising sending a notice to said user if said
- 2 log-in authentication data does not match said valid authentication data.

1 5. A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising sending a notice to said user if said  
2 log-in authorization data does not match said valid authorization data.

1 6. A system for providing a software application service over the Internet comprising:  
2 (a) a web top server for providing a user interface to a software applications service  
3 over the Internet;  
4 (b) a database server for storing software application persistent data and for  
5 performing software application computing in response to input data; and  
6 (c) an application server for performing a business function related to said software  
7 application service, and for processing communication between said web top server and said  
8 database server, and for providing said input data.

1 7. A system as recited in claim 6 wherein said web top server includes presentation  
2 functionality for providing display screen data to a client terminal.

1 8. A system as recited in claim 6 wherein said business function includes recording software  
2 application service provided to a user.

1 9. A system as recited in claim 8 wherein said business function includes preparing billing  
2 data for use in billing a user for software application service provided.

1 10. A system as recited in claim 6 wherein said software computing includes preparing result  
2 data for transmission to a client terminal through said applications server and said web top  
3 server.

1 11. A system as recited in claim 6 wherein said input data includes user supplied input data.

2 12. A system as recited in claim 6 wherein said software application computing includes  
3 preparing result data for transmission to a client terminal, including transmission through said  
4 web top server.